

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-13 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the prior art. The Examiner objected to Claims 20 and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and the Examiner indicated that these Claims 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

More specifically, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,315,504 (Lemle) in view of U.S. Patent 6,721,921 (Altman). Claims 5, 11 and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Lemle in view of Altman and further in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0007324 (Centner); and Claim 19 was rejected as being unpatentable over Lemle in view of Altman and further in view of U.S. patent application publication no. 2002/0184255 (Edd, et al.)

In order to expedite an allowance of this application, Applicants are rewriting each of Claims 20 and 21 in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 1, which is the only claim from which Claims 20 and 21 are dependent. This places Claims 20 and 21 in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and to withdraw the objections to Claims 20 and 21 and to allow these claims.

All of the rejected claims – that is, Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 – are being cancelled.

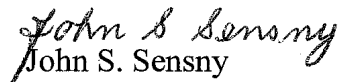
Applicants have amended Claims 20 and 21 and cancelled Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious

prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The present Amendment does not raise any new issues and does not require any further searching by the Examiner. In addition, this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. It is thus believed that entry of this Amendment is appropriate, and such entry is respectfully requested.

For the reasons discussed above, the Examiner is asked to enter this Amendment, to reconsider and to withdraw the objections to Claims 20 and 21 and to allow these claims and the application. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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